



Spotlight on Grace: *Thoughts from the Rector*

If you could step back in time to, say, 1960, you would likely not see a single person at Grace Church making the sign of the cross (also known as "crossing yourself") during worship. Until recently, making the sign of the cross was largely reserved to Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Anglo-Catholic Episcopal churches (though the great reformer Martin Luther supported the practice!).



Like in many Episcopal churches in recent decades, though, Grace has seen more and more people perform this ancient liturgical practice of "crossing oneself." When people make the sign of the cross during worship at Grace, it usually occurs in several places: at the opening of the service; at the end of the Confession when absolution is pronounced; and at the end of the service, when the priest pronounces God's blessing on the people. You may also notice people using their thumb to trace three small crosses on their forehead, lips and heart at the beginning of the Gospel reading as a way of saying: "May the words of the Gospel be in my mind and on my lips and in my heart." The sign of the cross is really a "prayer in motion", seeking Christ's blessing upon us and God's forgiveness and mercy. It is also **TOTALLY OPTIONAL**.

For many Episcopalians who grew up in Protestant and low-church Episcopal parishes (where worship looks and feels more Protestant than Roman Catholic or Anglo-Catholic) the sign of the cross is not part of their spiritual practice, whereas it comes very naturally to those who grew up in the Roman Catholic Church or Anglo-Catholic Episcopal parishes. Whether or not you choose to cross yourself, you're still a good Episcopalian! - Jonathan+

This Week at Grace

Worship services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist w/ music

Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

St. Patrick's Day Feast: This Sunday, March 13, following the 10am service, in Gammell Hall. Brought to you by Teens in Action! Enjoy a classic Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage. Suggested donation: \$5 per child, \$10 per adult.

Inquirers' Class: March 13 - April 24 Sundays at 9am (except Easter) in the Chafee Room. Particularly for adults interested in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, reception, or renewal of baptismal vows; but ALL adults welcome.

Thursday Noon Organ Concert: March 17, guest organist Peter Berton of St. John the Evangelist, Newport.

Women's Prayer and Bible Study:

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room

Grace Church is OPEN to the public each weekday from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Please tell your friends, co-workers, and visitors to stop by and explore this beautiful historic church. Our friendly docents will greet you with a smile.

Looking Ahead

Holy Week: Please see our full worship schedule for Holy Week summarized below, and please make a point to join us. Please note that Easter flower and/or music dedications must be received before March 23 to be included in the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday bulletins. You'll find cards and small green envelopes located in the pews and in the narthex.





HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 20, 8:00am & 10:00am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm

Good Friday

Friday, March 25, 12:00pm

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 26, 7:00pm

Easter

Sunday, March 27, 8:00am & 10:00am

Thursdays at Noon at Grace

Winter-Spring 2016

Feb 18	Fred Jodry, Organ Brown University
Feb 25	Vince Edwards, Organ
March 3	Vince Edwards, Organ
March 10	Joseph Ripka, Organ Calvary Episcopal Church, Stonington, CT
March 17	Peter Berton, Organ St. John the Evangelist, Newport
<i>March 24 and 31 – 2 week break</i>	
April 7	Vince Edwards, Organ
April 14	Rhode Island College Brass Quintet
April 21	Nick Laroche, Baritone and Cheryl Bishkoff, Oboe Cantata 82 "Ich habe genug" – J.S. Bach
April 28	Vince Edwards, Organ
May 5	Vince Edwards, Organ
May 12	Nikki Lawrence Mezzo Soprano
May 19	Brad Kleyla, Tenor and Trombone
May 26	Vince Edwards, Organ



Music at Grace

The **Thursday Noon concert series** continues next Thursday, March 17, with a performance by guest organist Peter Berton of St. John the Evangelist, Newport.

The March 13th Sunday 10am Music Notes: This week's anthems both share their text from Psalm 126, though that is where the similarities end! At the offertory, soprano Paige Revens sings C.V. Stanford's setting which comes from his grouping of "Bible Songs." Stanford embodied the romanticism of the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Set about 300 years earlier, Adrian Batten, also an English composer, set Psalm 126 for 4-part choir in a classic Tudor style. Today's selections are a wonderful example of hearing how a span of centuries can bring the same text to life in such varied ways.

The **Grace Church Choristers** is open to boys and girls in grades 2 through 12. The choir rehearses at least twice weekly, and sings twice per month at the Sunday Holy Eucharist at Grace. Please spread the word to families with youngsters who may have an interest in singing. Contact [Director of Music Vince Edwards](#) with questions.

How to Give with a Smile

If you could turn the click of a mouse (or the tap of a screen) into cost-free contributions to support worship, music & ministry here at Grace Church, wouldn't that be a reason to smile? If you already shop online at Amazon.com, no matter

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Sincerely,



Your Grace Church Clergy & Staff
401-331-3225

The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the gospel through worship, proclamation and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.